

From: Dave Jorgensen
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/28/02 1:59pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

Dear Sirs,

As a citizen of the United States of America, and an employee in the High-Tech sector of our nations economy, I feel compelled to write and voice my disagreement with the proposed Microsoft anti-trust settlement.

For the past two decades, I have watched again and again as Microsoft leverages its monopoly position to wipe out what were once healthy high-tech markets. Their actions have had a continued, chilling effect on the industry which will be felt long into the future. However one of the few remaining areas where Microsoft has not yet accomplished their monopolistic goals, is in the education market.

It's likely that Microsoft would leverage their monopoly to take the education market if they could, but they've likely hesitated in order to avoid undue attention while the current cases are being judged. However, if the proposed settlement (of product donation to the schools) is allowed to continue, our legal system will in effect be sanctioning, even demanding, that Microsoft flood this additional market with its product and drive out competitors from this area as well. In effect, the proposed settlement will simply reward Microsoft's monopolistic practices by providing them another monopoly in the education market.

I urge the Justice Department, The Court, The Judge, anyone else involved, to -reject- the proposed settlement and -insist- on a more fair remedy. Microsoft is not like some poor farmer who has to hand over his old tractor to cover back taxes. The settlement amount is just a tiny percentage (3%) of the -huge- cash hoard they have accumulated through their monopolistic practices. Short of breaking up the company (which I still think is justified) certainly we should at the very least, insist that they pay their costs like the rest of us do, in cash. Anything less only reinforces their monopolistic position.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter,

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